

# NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

**EDWARD E. McNALLY  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

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*Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700*

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**MARCH 20, 2006**

## **Ex Chief of Police of East St. Louis Sentenced Before the United District Court for Obstruction of Justice and Perjury Before a Grand Jury**

Edward E. McNally, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today on March 20, 2006, **RONALD MATTHEWS**, former Chief of Police of the East St. Louis, Illinois Police Department was sentenced before the United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois, to a total term of thirty-three (33) months' imprisonment, and two (2) years' supervised release. In addition, **MATTHEWS** was ordered to pay a \$600 fine and a \$300 Special Assessment.

**MATTHEWS** was found guilty January 21, 2005, after a seven-day jury trial on an Indictment which charged conspiracy to obstruct justice, obstruction of justice, and perjury before the grand jury.

Janerra Carson-Slaughter, former secretary to **MATTHEWS**, and Ayoub S. Qattoum, a former Auxiliary Police Officer with the East St. Louis Police Department, were charged together in the six-count indictment. Carson-Slaughter and Qattoum pled guilty on March 14, 2005. Qattoum was sentenced on August 22, 2005, and committed to the Bureau of Prisons for a total term of 21 months. Carson-Slaughter's sentencing is scheduled for March 27, 2006.

The successful prosecution was obtained in an investigation by the Metro East Public Corruption Task Force. Law enforcement agencies participating in the investigation include the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the United States Postal Inspection Service; the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation; the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and the Illinois State Police. The prosecution of the case was handled by Special Assistant United States Attorney Hal Goldsmith.